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March 21, 2012

VIA E-MAIL

Senator Mike Green  
805 Farnum Bldg  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Re: Enhanced training requirements for CPL exemption per SB 59

Dear Senator Green,

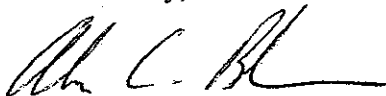
I write today concerning the proposed training requirements for obtaining an exemption from certain areas currently off-limits to concealed pistol licensees. This letter is an expression of my personal opinions as a firearms instructor and does not necessarily reflect the views of the organizations by which I am certified.

Having had the opportunity to train hundreds of law-abiding citizens in firearms safety best practices, firearm operating principles, shooting skills, firearms laws, and the legal implications of firearms ownership, transportation, and possession, I have seen firsthand the development and reinforcement of proper knowledge, skills, and attitudes among my students. While I offer basic firearm courses to new shooters and those interesting in learning the basics of firearms safety, I spend the bulk of my time as an instructor conducting the state of Utah's concealed firearms course. In the Utah concealed firearms course we spend considerable time reviewing and discussing the various legal aspects of firearms, with particular emphasis on prohibited conduct as well as on the use of deadly force — an area I enjoy guiding my students through, largely thanks to the knowledge I gained in law school.

With regard to the enhanced training requirements proposed by Senate Bill 59, it is my firmly held belief that additional training benefits both the individual and the community, particularly when it is done on a voluntary basis such as when one would seek an exemption under the proposed language. The additional training time and round count proposed by SB 59 to qualify for an exemption would provide opportunities for more in-depth classroom instruction and additional hands-on training on the range, which are things that will pay dividends for years to come. Such additional classroom time would facilitate important and productive discussion of the legal aspects of deadly force through the presentation of materials such as pattern jury instructions or scholarly writing on the subject such as Massad Ayoob's excellent book, In the Gravest Extreme: The Role of the Firearm in Personal Protection, which I highly recommend to my students.

It is my belief that the approach taken by SB 59 is the correct one in that the exemption is optional to the licensee, thus leaving licensees the choice of whether to engage in additional training in order to minimize the prohibited areas that apply to them. Importantly, this is accomplished without creating an additional burden for those who choose not to seek an exemption.

Most sincerely,



Alan C. "Al" Baker  
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Utah BCI Certified Concealed Firearms Instructor (#1101620)